

REBECCA COHN eNEWSLETTER

for the twenty-fourth Assembly District

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Cohn's Comment



Recently, I wrote to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board to express my strong opposition to the elimination of Caltrain service to the College Park Station.

In the Bay Area, there has been a heightened awareness of mass transit issues and a focused effort on providing a system of public transportation that encourages ridership to and from homes, jobs and schools. This station is a part of a system that works.

Bellarmine College Preparatory states that there are over 300 daily riders who use the Caltrain Station as their primary transportation to school. These are mainly students who commute to Bellarmine from as far away as Hollister, Gilroy, San Mateo and Burlingame. Forcing these students to drive would increase traffic congestion and air pollution. Additionally, it would cut into the available productive time not just for the students, but for their families as well.

Whether or not students can drive to campus they encounter serious obstacles. Both campus and neighborhood parking are at capacity. Few of the students who ride the train and are old enough to drive and fewer still have cars. Many students who use the Caltrain service are on financial assistance from the school.

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Cohn Commemorates Holocaust Memorial Week



Passing the torch: Cohn with survivors and students

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn presided over a special Assembly Session in commemoration of the California Holocaust Memorial Week on Wednesday,

May 4th. Over thirty holocaust survivors were on hand making the event the largest gathering of survivors in the history of the State Capitol. This year marked the 60th

anniversary of the liberation of Jews from concentration camps in Nazi occupied Europe.

Alex Bauer, a survivor from Hungary, addressed the Assembly with a personal account of his experiences. Holocaust survivors sat next to Assemblymembers at their desks on the Assembly Floor. While several Assemblymembers brought in survivors from around the State, the majority of the group came up on a bus from

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Stranger Danger Camp - Saturday in Santa Clara: See Page 2

Sofa Set Found in Guadalupe River During Cleanup

SAN JOSE – Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn and an armada of volunteers cleaned a large, open portion of the Guadalupe River on Saturday, April 30th in San Jose. Volunteers from the Boy Scouts of America, Del Mar, Westmont, Branham, and Presentation High Schools, and several neighborhood groups generously gave their

time on a sunny weekend. Cohn's office organized the event.

The area of the

river that was cleaned was in desperate need of some volunteer time with litter, clothes, furniture,

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Who throws out this stuff? Creek cleaners and the haul

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Student safety is a prime concern. The next closest Caltrain stop would require a bus transfer. Students would then have to walk across a heavily trafficked section of The Alameda. Couple this with more time spent in non-supervised public areas and this creates legitimate concerns for the safety of these young people.

The proposed closing of the College Park Station was not in the spirit of public transportation. There are many reasons local and regional, personal and public, environmental and fiscal, to keep this station open. The fact is that stations like this make Caltrain, and public transportation as a whole, a viable, growing alternative to our clogged freeway systems. By eliminating this station and others like it, we would be stopping our public transportation system's growth and discouraging people from using the Caltrain system.

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board voted to keep the College Park Station open at the end of April. I was pleased to play a small part in the resolution of this problem. When the reasonable voices of the community raise concern, they can work together with government to find an equitable solution. I hope that as my constituent you can keep me informed of similar situations so that I may continue to address your concerns. ♦

– *Rebecca Cohn*

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the 24th Assembly District. Many of them participated in the essay project coordinated by Cohn's office that pairs high school students with Holocaust survivors. Local students from Congregation Beth David in Saratoga and Kehillah High School in San Jose accompanied the survivors on the bus and were recognized during the ceremony. The essays and interviews were compiled in a book which was given to local libraries and the Israeli Holocaust museum Yad Vashem. ♦

Stranger Danger Camp this Saturday



Chipper the CHP mascot and friends

SANTA CLARA – This Saturday Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn's "Stranger Danger Camp", a children's safety resource fair, comes to Santa Clara for the first time. The fair will be held in the Santa Clara Central Park Library and runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The library is located at 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara.

Free classes will be offered to

teach children what they should do if they encounter a stranger. Classes will be held hourly beginning on each half hour. Other features include:

- FREE digital fingerprinting, DNA swabs, and photos
- Chipper, the CHP Chipmunk
- An up-close look at various emergency vehicles
- Information booths at the Resource Faire to put attendees in touch with all the different aspects of emergency services in the area

Contact Julie Lind for more information at (408) 282-8920 or Julie.Lind@asm.ca.gov. ♦

Secretary of State Raises Special Election Cost Estimate

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson has determined that the cost of the special election being considered by the Governor will cost taxpayers up to \$80 million. At this time the Governor has not told us how he intends to pay for it.

To date, none of the counties have been paid for the recall election of 2003, which forced communities to make \$70 million in cuts to community services, such as health care, libraries, and parks.

The Governor also did not include the cost of a special election in the revision of his budget which he submitted to the legislature on Friday, May 13th. When questioned by the press, the governor refused to answer two questions about how he intended to pay for the election.

When Governor Pete Wilson called for a special election in 1973 for his school voucher initiative, he submitted legislation requiring the state to pay for it.

Secretary of State McPherson recently told the Sacramento press club that the special election would cost \$70 million to \$80 million. He also noted that there was "no way" the Governor's redistricting initiative could go into effect in time for the 2006 elections.

If a special election is not called, the Governor's initiatives – along with others that have qualified -- would appear on the June 2006 primary ballot. None of the Governor's initiatives would impact this year's budget. ♦

Interactive Feature: What do you think?

Do you think a special election should be held this November?
How do you feel about the Governor's proposed initiatives?
E-mail me at Assemblymember.Cohn@assembly.ca.gov

Legislative Update

SACRAMENTO — Several of Assemblymember Cohn's bills passed through the Assembly in May. They will now be heard in Senate Committees. The following is an overview of recent activity.

AB 114: Evidence of Domestic Violence
AB 114 passed the Assembly Floor on May 5th with bi-partisan support. This bill will allow for prior evidence of domestic violence to be admissible in child abuse cases.

This bill will rectify a legal double standard that allows for prior evidence of child abuse to be admissible in domestic violence prosecutions, but not domestic violence in child abuse prosecutions.

AB 113: High Risk Sex Offenders
AB 113 passed the Assembly Floor on May 5th with bi-partisan support, receiving all "AYE" votes. This bill increase the restricted distance which high-risk sex offenders may live from schools to ½ of a mile and add protection to grades 9-12. Current law restricts sex offenders from living within ¼ of a mile from schools grades K-8. Increasing the distance that these sex offenders may live from schools will provide greater protection to the most defenseless in our society, the children.

AB 64: Recording Crimes
AB 64 passed the Assembly on May 27th 74-0. The bill lowers the piracy felony threshold from 1,000 to 100 units for both audio recordings and audiovisual works. By stiffening penalties and raising fines as well,

► Cleanup: from page 1

and other large pieces of debris in and around the river. Volunteers focused their time on removing trash from the banks of the river, where there is easy access to dumping along Old Almaden Road and Almaden Expressway. Refreshments were donated by Noah's Bagels and the equipment used was given through the Adopt-A-Creek program from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. All participants received Certificates of Recognition from the California State Assembly as an honor for donating their time and energy to improving the local

environment.

Assemblymember Cohn is organizing other Creek Cleanups, Spring Plantings, and Park Cleanups around her district which includes parts of San Jose and Santa Clara along with all of Campbell and Saratoga. If you are interested in helping with these events or would like to suggest a site in your neighborhood that needs improvement, please contact Cameron Day at 408-282-8920 or Cameron.Day@asm.ca.gov. ♦

Staying Up All Night to Fight Cancer

"Relay For Life" is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs for the American Cancer Society (ACS). The "Relay" is a 24-hour team event that increases awareness of cancer in our community and raises funds to fight the disease. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

Relay brings people together from all walks of life with the common goal of eliminating cancer. You can participate by becoming a Team Captain, by being a Donor or Sponsor or by volunteering before, during and after Relay. Cancer survivors may join other survivors in the inspirational Survivors Lap that officially begins our annual Relays.

For more information, contact the ACS office:

1715 S. Bascom Ave., Ste. 100, Campbell, CA

Phone: (408) 879-1032

www.cancer.org

Relays have already take place in Willow Glen, Blossom Valley and Santa Clara. ♦

Local Relays for Life

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| • Campbell: Campbell Community Center | July 9th, 10 a.m. |
| • San Jose Area: San Jose City College | July 16th, 10 a.m. |
| • Saratoga: Redwood Middle School | August 6th, 10 a.m. |
| • Los Gatos: Vasona Lake County Park | August 20th, 10 a.m. |

the bill targets pirates who have been carefully operating under the 1,000 unit threshold.

Piracy hurts everyone by diminishing the incentive to invest in the creation of music and film. It stunts the growth of the information-based economy and erodes innovation and cultural creativity. Piracy is perceived as a crime only against authors, performers, composers, musicians, record companies, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers, but ultimately it is a crime against consumers and music fans. ♦



Acting Against Teen Dating

Violence: Cohn and the cast of Gunderson High's teen dating violence skits. The school joined with Cohn and Next Door to raise awareness about the subject of teen relationship abuse.